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ANNUAL REPORT

for the

YEAR 1947

on the

HEALTH OF TORPOINT

by

P. J. Fox.
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
TORPOINT,
CORNWALL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

of the

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TORPOINT.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of Torpoint for 1947. In doing so I would like to make it clear that none of the matters reported upon were known to me personally since I did not assume the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to your Council until 1st October, 1948. The previous Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. Llewellyn Davies unfortunately died before he could prepare this report and the task has therefore fallen upon the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Wilson Hogarth, whose assistance I gratefully acknowledge, and myself.

During the year the live birth rate was 25.6 for the Urban District as compared with 20.5 for England and Wales.

The death rate for the Urban District was 12.4 as compared with 12.0 for England and Wales.

The total number of infectious diseases notified was 16 - a very moderate figure for an Urban District with an estimated population of 3,635 inhabitants.

The above figures would indicate that on the whole the health of the Urban District was very good.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P.J. Fox.

Medical Officer of Health.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

1 9 4 7

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Area (in acres) - 1324.
Population at 1931 census - 3971.
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population - 3635.
Number of inhabited houses - 927.
Rateable Value - £34,271.
Sum represented by 1d. rate - £140.
Social Conditions - There has been no significant change in the social conditions of the residents during 1947. A large number of the employed population works in Devonport and Plymouth.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year 1947:-

	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000
Live births - Legitimate	45	47	92	25.60
Illegitimate	-	1	1	
Still births - Legitimate	1	-	1	0.27
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths.	24	21	45	12.38
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth.		Nil.		-

Infant mortality rate - 32.2 (England and Wales - 41)

Deaths from measles (All ages) -	1
Deaths from whooping cough (All ages)	Nil.
Deaths from scarlet fever (All ages)	Nil.
Deaths from diphtheria (All ages)	Nil.

The group to which the largest number of deaths was attributed was "Heart Disease" from which 5 males and 9 females died.

All forms of cancer caused a total of 6 deaths - 3 males and 3 females.

Pulmonary tuberculosis caused the death of 1 male.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council :-

A.	(1) Fever.	Treated at Swilly Isolation Hospital.
	(2) Smallpox.	No cases have arisen, but would be dealt with at Swilly.
B.	(1) Tuberculosis.	All tuberculous cases are dealt with by the County Council.
	(2) Maternity.	Domicilary cases are supplied with the services of a Certified Midwife. Institutional normal cases are accommodated at Polwelean, Looe. Abnormal and operative cases at the City Hospital, Plymouth, in conjunction with the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities - The St. John's Ambulance maintains an Ambulance with a full-time driver.

There is no Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Day Nursery, School Clinic, Orthopaedic Clinic, or Artificial Light Clinic available in the District.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Treatment centres are at Liskeard, and once a month at Beaumont House, Plymouth.

Nursing in the Home - Torpoint and District Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Midwives - Torpoint and District Nursing Association is aided by grants from the Sanitary Authority, and employs a midwife.

Maternity and Nursing Homes - The County Council is the Supervising Authority under Acts relating to the registration of Maternity and other Nursing Homes.

Infectious Diseases. - In accordance with the Scheme prepared by the Cornwall County Council and approved by the Ministry of Health on February 9th, 1935, the Council have, in conjunction with the Borough of Saltash and the Rural District of St.Germans entered into an agreement with the City Council of Plymouth for accommodation to be available for patients from the Borough, Urban and Rural Councils jointly.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health:-	A. Llewellyn Davies, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 2 Carlton Villas, Torpoint. Part time.
Sanitary Inspector:-	Wilson Hogarth, M.R.San.I., C.S.I.B., L.F.S., Also Surveyor and Water Engineer., 9 Montpelier Terrace, Torpoint, and Council Offices, York Road, Torpoint. Part time.

GENERAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or established by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council :-

A. (1) Fever. Treated at Swilly Isolation Hospital.

(2) Smallpox. No cases have arisen, but would be dealt with at Swilly.

B. (1) Tuberculosis. All tuberculous cases are dealt with by the County Council.

(2) Maternity. Domiciliary cases are supplied with the services of a certified Midwife. Institutional Maternal cases are accommodated at Stilwelcom, Lagg. Abnormal and operative cases at the City Hospital, Ballyraggett, in conjunction with the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities - The St. John's Ambulance maintains an ambulance with a full-time driver.

There is no Infectious and Child Welfare Centre, Day Nursery, School Clinic, Orthopaedic Clinic, or Artificial Light Clinic available in the District.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Treatment centres are at Lifeford, and once a month at Maternal House, Ballyraggett.

Nursing in the Home - Ballyraggett and District Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

Midwives - Ballyraggett and District Nursing Association is aided by grants from the Sanitary Authority, and employs a midwife.

Maternity and Infancy Funds - The County Council is the guaranteeing authority under Acts relating to the registration of Maternity and other nursing Homes.

Inspection Diseases. - In accordance with the Scheme prepared by the County Council and approved by the Ministry of Health on February 7th, 1925, the Council have, in conjunction with the Borough of Ballinab and the Rural District of St.Germans entered into an agreement with the City Council of Plymouth for accommodation to be available for patients from the Borough, Urban and Rural Districts Jointly.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the Local Authority:-

Medical Officer of Health:- A. Llewellyn Davies, M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Crafton Villas, Torquay. Part time.

Sanitary Inspector:- William Hogarth, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.H., M.S.E. Also Sanitary and Water Inspector, 2 Moorfields Terrace, Torquay, and Council Offices, York Road, Torquay. Part time.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(A) Water Supplies. During 1947 there has been a serious deterioration in both the quantity and quality of the supplies due principally to increased water consumption in the town, resulting in a much heavier draw on the reservoirs, thus reducing the period of storage which previously has had a marked effect upon the purification of the supplies. Also during this year the water levels in the reservoirs have been lower and the quality of water in the low levels has been inferior. In addition, the auxiliary supply which the Council took by agreement with the South East Cornwall Water Board has become irregular during the summer months owing to increased water consumption in the area of the Board, reducing the surplus available for bulk supplies to neighbouring authorities.

Since the beginning of 1946 the number of inhabited houses in Torpoint has increased by 89, the majority of these being temporary bungalows constructed on the Council's housing estate, and this caused a local water shortage in the area where development took place. In view of anticipated further development, the Council considered it necessary to lay about one mile of new 6" distributing main to feed the developing area. This main was completed during the year and has added considerably to the demand for water made upon the local water resources.

In July a meeting of all the local authorities in South East Cornwall together with the County Council and the South East Cornwall Water Board took place with a view to implementing recommendations made in the report of Mr. Gardiner, the Civil Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Health, but this conference failed in its object because of disagreement amongst the authorities caused by the attitude of the South East Cornwall Water Board whose delegates refused to agree to the principle of enlarging the Board by including representatives of neighbouring authorities in need of water. The Board's proposal to supply water in bulk without allowing representation by the purchasing authorities was not acceptable. It is feared that the water supply position in South East Cornwall will shortly become acute.

(B) Rivers and Streams. The waters of the Hamoaze and St. Johns Lake which form the boundary of the Urban District on all sides except the North West are regularly inspected and pollution of beaches and foreshore by fuel oil from H.M. Ships stationed at the Devonport Dockyard, which has been fairly constant for some years, is increasing.

(C) Drainage and Sewerage. The present system continues to be satisfactory

(D) Refuse Disposal. This remains satisfactory as controlled tipping is carried out and vermin on refuse tips are regularly exterminated.

(E) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

(a)	Total number of inspections	311
(b)	Informal Notices and personal interviews	42
(c)	Statutory Notices served	11
(d)	Statutory Notices complied with	9
(e)	Tests applied to house drains	180
(f)	Visits to premises in connection with infectious diseases . . .	10
(g)	Premises disinfected	4
(h)	Inspections of Dairies etc.	16
(i)	Number of drains laid or repaired . . .	98
(j)	Choked drains cleared	1
(k)	Refuse bins provided	120

(F) Housing. 29 war destroyed dwellinghouses have been rebuilt during the year and in addition 10 Traditional Council houses have been completed, bringing some easement to the very overcrowded conditions in the town, caused by the loss of 112 dwellings, due to enemy action, the total number of houses built or rebuilt since the end of 1945 being 89. The housing needs of the District are still great however.

During the year one Demolition Order and one Closing Order were made by the Council when the premises were vacated by families rehoused on the housing estate. The vacated premises were beyond repair.

(G) Factories and Workshops. There are 9 factories in the District, all of which are inspected regularly.

(H) Food Premises. These continue to receive regular attention and milk samples are taken at least once per quarter. Follow-up samples are taken weekly when the need arises.

Increased attention has been given to the question of icecream sales and much has been done during the year to bring the premises up to a reasonable standard of structural repair, the standard of cleanliness has always been quite high. Samples of icecream have been submitted for bacteriological examination and these were taken frequently during the summer months, the reports being generally good. Regular inspections of fried fish shops and butchers' shops continue.

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TORQUAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,

Town Hall,

Torquay,

Devonshire.

Annual Report for the Year 1947 on
the Health of Torquay

by

Dr. J.J. Fox.

Correction.

For the figure "32" in line 2,
paragraph 1, page 5, read "2".

November, 1948.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

G E N E R A L.

There were 16 cases of infectious disease notified in 1947. There were 20 deaths, and as might be expected in such a small total incidence there is nothing calling for comment.

In the absence of clinic facilities the majority of diphtheria immunisations were carried out by private practitioners.

Cases of venereal disease were dealt with at the City Hospital, Plymouth.

T A B L E 1.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

NOTIFIED DURING 1947

Disease	No. of cases Notified.
Measles.	9
Scarlet Fever.	4
Pneumonia.	3

T A B L E 2.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1947

Age Periods.	New Cases		Total
	Male	Female	
15-20	1	-	1
40-45	1	-	1
Totals	2	-	2

Deaths - 1 male aged 29 died from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year 1947.

TABLE 3.

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1947.

Cause of Death	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	1	-
Measles	-	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
Cancer of breast	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	2	2
Intracranial vascular lesions	1	1
Heart diseases	5	9
Other diseases of the circulatory system.	2	2
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia	1	-
Other digestive diseases	2	-
Congenital malformation, birth injury and infantile diseases.	2	1
All other causes.	4	3
All causes	24	21

General Register Office,
(Statistical Branch),
Somerset House,
Strand, W.C.2.

TABLE 4.

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, 1947.

	England and Wales.	Torpoint Urban District.
Births.		
Live Births	20.5	25.6
Still Births	0.50	0.27
Deaths		
All causes	12.0	12.4
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.27

All figures shown are rates per 1000 of total population.

TABLE 5.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES - 1947.

	England and Wales.	Torpoint Urban District.
Deaths under 1 year of age	41	32
Enteritis and diarrhoea deaths under 2 years of age.	5.8	0.0

Rates per 1000 live births.

TABLE 6.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES - 1947.

England and Wales.	1.17
Torpoint Urban District.	0.00

Rates per 1000 total births.

General Register Office
Somerset House,
Strand, W.C.2.

TABLE 4.

DIFTHERIA, CITY OF BOSTON - RATES AND PERCENTAGES OF MORTALITY - 1927.

	Number and Rate.	Per cent Death Rates.
Diphtheria.		
Cases Reported	84.3	2.1
Death Rate	0.00	0.07
Deaths		
All causes	15.0	15.4
Laryngeal and Pseudo-membranous	0.00	0.00
Bronchial Tubes	0.00	0.00
Bronchial Pneumonia	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
All Ages	0.00	0.00
Under 1 year	0.00	0.00
1 to 4 years	0.00	0.27

TABLE 5.

DIFTHERIA MORTALITY RATES - 1927.

	Number and Rate.	Percent of Total.
Deaths under 1 year		
All ages	All	32
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup		
Under 5 years	0.0	0.0
Under 1 year	0.0	

TABLE 6.

MEAN ANNUAL MORTALITY RATES - 1924.

	Number and Rate.	
Diphtheria		1.17
Total Deaths	0.00	
Under 1 year		
1 to 4 years		

Control Tuberculosis Officer:
Bronchial Tubes:
Rate - 0.0.